

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A generally oval battery including a battery case ~~(2)~~ having a generally oval cross section, a generally oval sealing plate ~~(3)~~, and an electrode plate assembly, said sealing plate having a U-shaped cross section, and said battery having a thickness of 4mm or more and an aspect ratio of 3 or more, wherein an intersecting point between a circular part and a linear part in an interface between said battery case and the sealing plate acts as a point where breakage occurs for discharge of gas.

2. (Currently Amended) The generally oval battery according to claim 1, wherein said battery case ~~(2)~~ is tubular with open ends.

3. (Currently Amended) The generally oval battery according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said battery case ~~(2)~~ and said sealing plate ~~(3)~~ are joined together by welding.

4. (New) The generally oval battery according to claim 2, wherein said battery case and said sealing plate are joined together by welding.

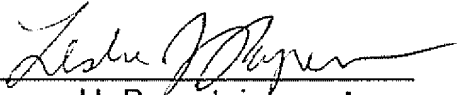
REMARKS

By the above amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the amendment under PCT Article 19 in the International Application.

Claim 3 has been amended and claim 4 has been added to delete multiple claim dependency. Also the reference numbers have been deleted from the claims. No estoppel should be deemed to be associated with this amendment.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Masatomo NAGATANI et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein Leslie J. Paperner
Reg. No. 29,027 Reg. #33329

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191